Jouhoku Scanlations

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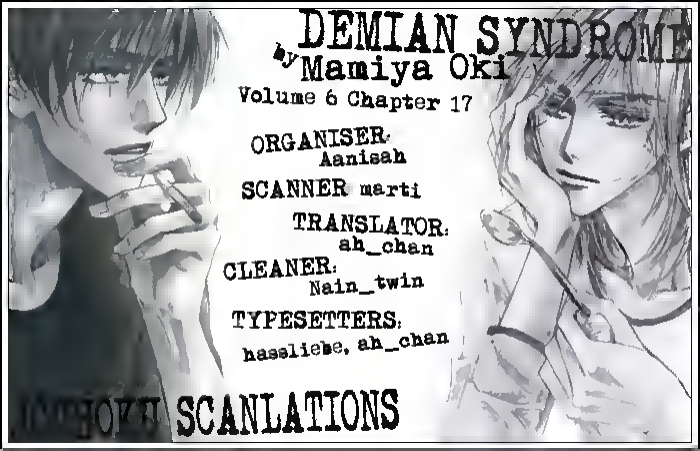
DEMIAN SYNDROME
by Mamiya Oki
Volume 6 Chapter 17
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SCANNER marti
TRANSLATOR: ah_chan
CLEANER: Nain_twin
TYPESETTERS: hasslieb, ah_chan
SCANLATIONS

Third Stage
#2 trust me

"REALITY" IS THE CONSTANT FLOW OF TIME AS WE STUMBLE OUR WAY FORWARD.
THE "IDEAL" IS LEFT BEHIND.
WE ARE ALL BOUND BY THIS REALITY— WE ARE ALL AT ITS MERCY.
I THOUGHT THAT WAS SIMPLY THE EXCUSE OF THOSE WHO WOULDN'T TRY.
INSIDE OF ME, IS THAT BEWILDERING, HAUNTING, IMAGE OF THE NEST. BEFORE IT TAKES COMPLETE POSSESSION OF ME...
LIKE "THAT PERSON".
BUT IN TIME, I HAVE HAD TO LEARN BETTER.

We apologise for the inconvenience
All train lines have been closed due to a traffic accident
I HAVE TO MAKE IT THERE, BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE——
I WILL MAKE IT THERE IN TIME
chatter
Ehuud Ehuud Ehuud

AZUMA YOU'RE REALLY GOING TO PLAY?
EH!
THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN TELLING YOU!
THE KICK-OFF IS AT TWO O' CLOCK OKAY!
COME BACK BEFORE THEN!!
..
IS THIS SOME KIND OF COSMIC JOKE?
I WON'T MAKE IT IN TIME, ON ANY OTHER ROUTE
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
Again, all train lines will not be in service
FOR REAL!?
MURMUR
NO WAY!
Shaddup
What? Really?
Huh?
We apologise for the inconvenience—

SOCCER, HUH
REALLY? AWESOME!
WHEN WE'RE IN HIGH SCHOOL, I'LL JOIN THE SOCCER CLUB TOO!
BESIDES, GETTING SOMEONE WHO HASN'T BEEN TO TRAINING AT ALL TO PLAY...
NOT LIKE I CAN DO ANYTHING ABOUT ACCIDENTS
AND KURACHI'S THE ONE WHO JUST DECIDED HE WAS GOING TO GET ME TO PLAY
I didn't promise him anything
Huuuh? What are you saying!?
IT'S NOT EASY BEING GOAL-KEEPER!!
YOU WOULDN'T HAVE TO RUN AROUND IN ALL THE DUST SO MUCH
WOULDN'T GOAL KEEPER BE BETTER?
FOR-WARD!!
Of course!
LIKE I THOUGHT
ANYWAY WHAT POSITION WOULD YOU WANT TO PLAY, SOU?
THINK ABOUT IT AFTER YOUR ASTHMA GETS BETTER
REALLY?
I THINK YOU COULD DO IT, SOU
IT'S A HUGE RESPONSI-BILITY. IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME
THEY'RE THE VERY LAST LINE OF DEFENCE, AND THEY HAVE TO STOP THEIR OPPONENTS MAN-TO-MAN!
IF THEY DON'T DO EVERYTHING THEY CAN, THEN

IF THE ONLY PROBLEM YOU CAN THINK OF IS WHAT YOU JUST SAID THEN IT'S NOT IMPOSSIBLE AT ALL
FOR YOU
blush
EH REALLY?
WHY?
No way.
THAT'S NOT IT!? THEN WHERE?
NOT TELLING
WHAT!?
HMM MAYBE
YOU'RE REALLY GOOD AT CHESS AND IGO
How about it!?
YOU'D BE A REAL GAME MAKER SO YOU HAVE TO BE A MIDFIELDER!
right!?
No, wait
LET ME GUESS!
Let's see
ANYWAY WHAT POSITION WOULD YOU LIKE?
ME? WELL, I
LIKE I SAID THAT'S
you're so
"FOR SURE.."
WHAT ARE THEY SO SURE ABOUT ANYWAY?
THEY SAID IT SO EASILY
YOU'VE GOTTA COME FOR SURE! I BELIEVE IN YOU OKAY?
SHUT UP! I'LL GET IN FOR SURE!!
WELL WHATEVER
I'LL FIND OUT IN FOUR MONTHS TIME ANYWAY

SUCH A MEAUNIGLESS PHRASE
WELL, I GUESS IT WASN'T MEANT TO BE
I'VE HAD IT!
phew
EH?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME AKIO-CHAN! THERE WAS A PRETTY MAJOR TRAIN ACCIDENT
YOU'RE QUITE LATE TODAY, KUZE-SAN.
YOU MEAN TAKASHI-KUN ISN'T HERE TODAY?
Hun?
OH NO! I WONDER IF HE MADE IT THERE IN TIME THEN?
HE WAITED 'TIL THE VERY LAST MINUTE, BUT HE HAD TO GO.
You said you'd be here at ten!

YES, HE SEEMS QUITE BUSY RIGHT NOW
NOT AT ALL LIKE LAST YEAR.
SO IS HE ENJOYING SCHOOL LIFE THEN?
Ah?
OH? THAT'S UNUSUAL
WRONG
DAMN OH, DID HE HAVE TO GO SEE MADAME SOMEWHERE?
SO SHE'S BEEN HOSPITALISED AGAIN.
YES, ...IT REALLY IS...
PERHAPS IT WILL SOON BE TIME HERE, AS WELL...
WELL, GOOD FOR HIM
THAT'S VERY UNUSUAL FOR TAKASHI-KUN
Hahaha, I really don't like him how nice
Like someone in the same year as you
WHY DID YOU ASK ME TO GO TO THE MATCH WITH YOU!?
ASK SOMEONE ELSE...
WAAA!
WHY DID WE HAVE TO BE ON DUTY, TODAY OF ALL DAYS, WHEN WAX SPILT ALL OVER THE FLOOR, AND THEN GLASS BROKE, ALL OVER IT, AND THEN THEY WOULDN'T LET US FINISH CLEANING IT ALL UP LATER!?
UCHI-YAMA YOU KNOW, YOU...
stomp stomp
senpai!
HURRY, HURRY!

BUT TAKAYAMA-KUN'S PLAYING TODAY!!
AND YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID THAT YOU SAW HIM USING HIS INHALER IN SECRET!
AREN'T YOU EVEN A BIT WORRIED!?
We have to go cheer for him at least!
Weren't you?
Ugh
EVEN SO, WHY DO I HAVE TO GO WITH YOU!?
mutter-
...Y OWN.
stomp stomp stomp
HUH?
I SAID, I'M TOO SCARED TO GO ON MY OWN!
And there'll be students from other schools there too—
WHAT'S WRONG WITH EVERYONE FROM 2G SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER ANYWAY!!?
I've never been to a match before!
...
You know...
RAH! RAH!
beep beep
Kyaaa! RAH!
Goooal!
Yanagi High scores their second goal!
Their fangs are bared! They're certainly out to avenge their defeat from last time against Jounoku!!
WHAT'S WITH THE CROWD HERE!?
I can't tell if we're home or away—
MOST OF THEM ARE YANAGI HIGH SUPPORTERS
tch!

Raaah, Raah, Rah!
THOSE GUYS JUST WANT TO MAKE SOME NOISE
WE DO HAVE SOME OF OUR GUYS HERE TOO, BUT...
THEY'RE ALL JUST WORKING OFF STRESS FROM THE PRESENTATION ASSEMBLY
All worked up
Beep beep
Half time!
Fifteen minutes break!
rah! rah!
DAMN IT..!
Hmm
They keep on pushing me
Even though it caught the ball...
gloo—m...
WE'VE STILL GOT THE NEXT HALF
I know how you feel though
Sorry for letting them through
Hey—
YOU GUYS SCORE SOME GOALS ALREADY!
But that first one
NO ONE COULD'VE BLOCKED THAT SECOND GOAL
WELL, LOOKS LIKE HE WON'T BE COMING. KURACHI.
captain of the team, Kido
I'M GLAD WE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING TO THE REST OF THE TEAM
They would have been so disappointed.
HE'LL COME!
JOUHOU 9
AH, TAKAYAMA...
SORRY.
I'M GONNA GO WASH MY FACE FOR A BIT.
...
What!?
HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO MOUNT AN OFFENCE WHEN WE SARELY HAVE ENOUGH PLAYERS !?
WE'RE DOING ALL WE CAN ON DEFENCE ALREADY!
Yes
Gyaaa
Gyaaa

I believe in him!
I KNOW HE'LL COME!
THERE'S STILL TIME
AND THERE'S NO ONE ELSE WHO CAN PLAY EITHER
TWO GOALS. SORRY
WELL, I KNEW WE WERE OVERMATCHED,
BUT ANY MORE OF THIS AND
HEY, YOU!
YOU'RE PRETTY QUIET TODAY, HUH
WHAT AM I, A MONKEY?

THIS GUY
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT
urk...
YOU GOTTEN SCARED 'COS OF WHAT HAPPENED LAST TIME?
murmur
EH?
AH...
The ones over there are really crowded
MIND IF I USE THE SINKS HERE TOO?
GO AHEAD
IT'S NO 7 FROM YANAGI HIGH
Their forward
And it's not like I want to remember what happened after that
AND MAYBE I DID CRASH INTO THE GOAL POSTS LAST TIME BUT!!
DON'T FUCK WITH ME!!
ME?
QUIET!? SCARED!?
SURE THEY DID GET TWO GOALS PAST ME BEFORE BUT...
huff huff
HUH!?
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE...
AZUMA!?
...!?
I CAN'T EVEN SAY HE'S WRONG RIGHT NOW
DAMN IT

THE MATCH !?
IS IT OVER!?
Why are you so out of breath?
NOT YET! IT'S ONLY HALF TIME!!
WHAT'S THE SCORE?
0-2
I SEE
I'M GONNA BORROW THE CHANGING ROOM
OKAY
EH!?
fwip!
WHY?
sush!
7

And as the second half of the match begins, we have a surprise from Jouhoku!!
....
A completely unknown player!! Fourth Year Azuma is added to the team, as a defender!
JOUHOKU
YANAGI
At last, Jouhoku has eleven players out in the field!
The teams are now even!!
WHAT KIND OF JOKE IS THIS?
Yanagi's forward is eyeballing the new face on the team!
Oh, he's giving him quite the dirty look——!
YEAH!
Awesome!!
C'MON EVERYONE, LET'S MOVE OUT!
I'll leave defending the back to you! ♡

HE DIDN'T SAY A WORD ABOUT PLAYING IN TODAY'S MATCH——
WELL WE HAVEN'T HAD TIME TO PRACTISE THIS SO EVERY-ONE CAN GO WHEREVER THEY LIKE
JUST KEEP THE OTHER TEAM AWAY FROM THE GOAL
AND ALSO,
LOOK TO TAKAYAMA FOR ANY OTHER INSTRUCTIONS
WE'LL BE PLAYING WITH A SWEEPER NOW, OKAY?

Why are you playing just because he told you to?
And what about Kimi-san?

But you're so late—!
AZUMA!
I KNEW YOU WOULD COME!
Oh, would you shut up!
AND YOU KEPT IT SECRET FROM US TOO!
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT!

AZUMA, WHAT ON EARTH IS GOING ON WITH YOU...?
...TCH!

EH?
LIKE I KNOW

HERE WE GO!!
CRAP!!
WHERE'S THE BALL ..?
YANG!
YUP, THEY'VE GOT GAPS IN THEIR DEFENCE EVERY-WHERE
TIME FOR OUR THIRD GOAL...
!?
SWISH!
YANG!
!!
PAY ATTEN-TION!!
I KNOW, I-
AM!!
BAM!
Thud!
WHO!
CLEAR!
JOU!!

CAN'T BELIEVE I'M PLAYING IN A GAME WITH YOU.
AZUMA ...?
JOUHOU
7
WELL, IT JUST KIND OF HAPPENED,
BUT I "DIDN'T WANT TO HAVE ANY REGRETS"
I'VE GOT YOUR BACK
.. !!
YEAH!
Aree!
rush!
boo!

HADAKA?
A DEFENDER, I GUESS.
What? I'm going to keep it short, myself!
murmur
During a free period
I WANT TO BE A MIDFIELDER, OR A FORWARD
I wasn't asking about that!
Oh! I want to play tennis
ME TOO!
WHEN WE GET TO HIGH SCHOOL, WHAT POSITION DO YOU WANT TO PLAY?
I'M DEFINITELY GONNA BE A FORWARD!

IT'S BECAUSE IT'S THE ONLY POSITION ON THE FIELD THAT CAN PROTECT THE GOALS WITH THE KEEPER.
Haha.
Come, I shot it.
AH... WELL...
Yeah, it does!
Eeh!?
A Sweeper!? So, in defence... yeah, that really suits you!!

———"FOR SURE"...HUH.

Ah~
A DRAW! IT WAS SO CLOSE!!
2-2!
Amazing!
Yes! We did it, we won—
Kya!
CAN'T BELIEVE AZUMA-SAN PLAYED TOO
IT'S NOT REALLY LIKE HIM...
YOU GUYS ARE MAKING TOO MUCH OF THIS
I'M GLAD I CAME
I wonder what it is with him?
WONDER WHERE TAKAYAMA-SENPAI WENT—
Go look for him, please!
Man of the hour
JOUHOU
THUD!
thump
MR. COMING IN WITH THE ASSIST AT THE VERY LAST-MINUTE HERO!!
I can't believe this!!
HEY!!
God, you're annoying sometimes!!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING GOING BACK BEFORE ANYONE ELSE!?
thwack!
URGH!
EH!? SORR-
WAIT, YOU...
PERHAPS THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT ARE FOR SURE...
rah!
rah!
uwah!
Fwoooo! Fwoo!

YOU WERE RUNNING ALL OVER THE FIELD JUST BEFORE...
DON'T TELL ME YOU DID ALL THAT WHILE YOU'RE STILL INJURED!?
YOU'RE LOOKING REALLY PALE TOO...
...THAT'S NOT IT.
THERE'S NO WAY IT'S NOTHING!!
THIS IS NOTHING
WHY DO YOU NEVER TELL PEOPLE THESE THINGS!?
WHY DIDN'T HE TELL ME?
JOU
AM I REALLY THAT UNRE-LIABLE?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING AB-
...!

Did you choke on something?
AH
ARE YOU OKAY?
UGH
cough cough
Sputter
drip
Hmm
—BLOOD!?
trickle

HE'S COUGHING UP BLOOD...!?
BLOOD..
AH-
JOU...
COUGH!
COUGH
!!
AZUMA !!
...!
There they are!
TAKAYAMA-SENPAI—!
And why did I end up coming along?
Tch
WHAT ARE THEY DOING OVER THERE..?

UWA!
AZUMA-SENPAI!! WHAT'S WRONG!? WHAT HAPPENED!?
YOU TWO...
Blood!?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, GOING BACK TO THE DORMS SO EARLY
!!
IMAI, CALL AN AMBULANCE!
Ye...
Yes!!
UCHIYAMA, GO FIND SENSEI!! HE SHOULD BE AT THE MAIN OFFICE...
OR IF HE'S NOT THERE, FIND SOMEONE ELSE!!
THIS BLOOD-STAINED DARKNESS...
collapse
HEY ...!?
AZU-MA!!
THUD
IT HURTS
WAIT
DON'T TALK!!
I- I DON'T NEED AN AMBU-LANCE

——AZUMA...
CAPTAIN!
THE PHYSICS TEACHER, KIKUCHI, SAYS TO COME AND SEE HIM!

EH? OH YEAH...
WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THE DOCUMENTS I LINKED YOU TO, THAT YOU SAID YOU'D TAKE A LOOK AT?
ABOUT THAT AZUMA SAID HE'D...
...Ah.
Heeey
HAS ANYONE VARNISHED THE CASTLE AND STUFF YET—?
And are there any poster colours left?
OH, TAKAYAMA!
Hang on, I'm getting them now!
Geh...
OH YOU FAILED ANOTHER EXPERIMENT?
THIS IS THE WORST!!
And he's just going to call me over...
He's probably already in a meeting
WELL, DO YOUR BEST!
Geh
GOT IT
Huh? Where did they go?
There you are, captain!
NUKADACCHI TOLD ME TO ASK YOU ABOUT THE EXPENSE SHEETS FOR THE FIELD TRIP...
OH DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT I'LL MANAGE
SORRY
SORRY, ASK ME AGAIN A BIT LATER
I'm not too sure...
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE COLLAPSED JUST LIKE THAT...
WHY WAS AZUMA PLAYING SOCCER ANYWAY?
Hey, where's my head-band—?
...So it's a case of even the devil gets sun-stroke?
Through the window Takayama is watching us from above.
YEAH, IT'S A BIT PAINFUL WITHOUT AZUMA AROUND
I WONDER IF HE'LL BE OKAY, THAT TAKAYAMA
HE SEEMS KIND OF OUT OF IT
IS IT TRUE HE'S GOT A STOMACH ULCER?
I heard he came down with acute gastritis.
Wasn't it a peptic ulcer?
I don't think an old man's disease?
Was he always like that?

poke
CAN'T BELIEVE WE'RE RELYING ON YOU TO COLLECT ALL THE PAPERS.
Who do you think you are?
TAKAYAMA'S DOING PRETTY WELL. DID YOU FORGET THAT HE TRANSFERRED HERE NOT THAT LONG AGO?
WHY DON'T YOU FOLLOW HIS EXAMPLE AND WORK A BIT HARDER BEFORE YOU START COMPLAINING.
Oooh, Kasahara, aren't you the good boy—
AH!!
...!
Splash!
Geh!
Kick-Slam!
HE SAID TO FOLLOW HIS EXAMPLE
WE'RE SUPPOSED TO FOLLOW THAT?
He's already out of it.
Hikes
What are you doing?
Sigh
Well— Don't sweat it too much
THERE'S STILL PLENTY OF TIME TO PRACTICE BEFORE THE ACTUAL PRESENTATION, BUT I DUNNO WHERE WE'RE GOING WITH THIS
AZUMA HAD DIVIDED EVERYTHING UP, SO I THOUGHT WE DIDN'T NEED TO WORRY, BUT—
Aaaah
Sigh, why are we doing everything by hand in this day and age?
But, it's a parade! The front cover is fine! But, the ribbon and the purple are all mixed up with the yellow
Uuuaaaa, it's every-where—
Ba-lump Ba-lump

oh!
I HEARD IF YOU'RE QUICK ENOUGH
YOU CAN WASH OUT POSTER COLOURS WITH JUST WATER
You idiot@
Geez
YOU SHOULD'VE JUST LET THEM REDRAW ANOTHER POSTER OR TWO.
WHAT'S THE POINT IN GETTING IT ALL OVER YOUR UNIFORM INSTEAD?
IT'S NOT LIKE ANYONE ADMIRED YOU FOR IT.
No one even noticed that was what you were doing!
Habit from playing goalkeeper?
...
IT WASN'T LIKE THAT.
susuuuuu
Whoa, look at that colour! It's a child-safe, coloured, non-diarrhea!
awkward
scrub scrub scrub scrub
Take off your shirt.
Gimme that!!
I'LL HELP YOU WASH OUT SOMETHING OVER HERE.

...
IMAI'S SHIRT AND NOW YOUR OWN UNIFORM.
YOUR SOCCER UNIFORM TOO
EVER SINCE YOU CAME BACK YOU'VE HAD A LOT OF TROUBLE WITH CLOTHES. HUH
SORRY I THINK I MIGHT HAVE...
PUSHED HIM TOO HARD...
EH?
GIMME YOUR BLAZER! IT'S GONNA HAVE TO BE SENT OUT TO THE CLEANER'S
Welcome back!!
cheerful boy
The third years are all at a gathering
OH, THANKS
WE SAVED YOU SOME DINNER!
What about our last room mate?
OH, AND I WAS GIVEN THIS LETTER FOR YOU
The room monitor must get back too he should be eating dinner as well.

——Azuma looks fairly well "as usual"
He always has the same poker face on, whether he's in our room, or in the hospital.
I wonder how long he's been bearing with the pain
WHAT'S WITH THAT?
UNEXPECTEDLY HIS STAY IN HOSPITAL HAS BEEN LENGTHENED TO THREE DAYS
IT SEEMS THEY'RE STILL WAITING FOR A FULL DIAGNOSIS...
IT'S FROM SAKURAI-SENPAI IN SIXTH YEAR.
HE SAID IT'S 'COS YOU SEEM REALLY BUSY.
WHAT IS IT?
A MESSAGE FROM AZUMA
"IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT."
...WHAT IS THIS...
HE ASKED ME TO GET SOME OF YOUR PAPERS OUT, SO I HANDED THEM OVER UNDER BOTH YOUR NAMES
HE SURE HAS GUTS, GETTING A SENIOR TO RUN ERRANDS FOR HIM.
Uwa
For real?
AND ALSO—

I TOLD HIM NOT TO GIVE ME THAT HALF-HEARTED PITY...
HE REALLY DOESN'T LISTEN,
YOU—— WHAT WERE YOU THINKING, BEARING UP UNDER IT ALL, UNTIL YOU COUGHED UP BLOOD?
WHAT THE HELL DO YOU MEAN BY "IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT"?
stupid
I THINK I MIGHT HAVE PUSHED HIM TOO HARD...
HOWEVER YOU LOOK AT IT, OF COURSE IT'S MY FAULT.

LIKE AZUMA WOULD GIVE IN THAT EASILY.
WHAT DID KURACHI ME IN... BY THAT...?
WAS IT ABOUT GETTING HIM TO PLAY SOCCER? BUT——
NO MATTER WHAT IT WAS...
...I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK IT HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH ME.
ha ha
YEAH, IT'S EXACTLY THE SAME
THE SAME AS WHEN HE WAS INJURED RIDING THAT BIKE...
I PUSHED HIM TO THE POINT THAT HE WAS STRESSED ENOUGH TO GET ULCERS.
I'M THE CAUSE OF IT ALL.
haven't I been terribly cruel?

Hehe.
WHAT IF... WHAT IF HE DIES!?
WHAT IF HE DIES JUST BECAUSE HE WAS WITH M...
JUST LIKE WHAT HAPPENED IN AMERICA
TO SEE MY FRIEND DIE BEFORE MY VERY EYES
HE LOOKED LIKE YOU TAKAGI
I SHOULDN'T HAVE TOLD HIM SOMETHING LIKE THAT!!
BECAUSE HE'S SO IDIOTICALLY KIND...
I SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID IT...
Crumple

AT FIRST I WANTED TO BE "EQUAL" TO HIM.
THEN, I WANTED HIM TO TELL ME HE "LIKED" ME. NOW, I WANT HIS "TRUST"...
WHAT AM I DOING...
I MUST BE AN IDIOT.
I TOLD HIM I'D COME TO WHERE HE WAS HIDING...
I TOLD HIM I WOULD COME———
.....
THAT'S RIGHT...
I HAVE TO CHECK WHAT'S IN THAT REPORT...
AND I HAVE TO MAKE SOME TIME FOR THAT PHYSICS EXPERIMENT TOO...

AND THEN...
BUT...
I CAN'T DO IT ANYMORE
I DON'T WANT TO DO ANYTHING ANYMORE———
I...
I'M SCARED OF WHAT I COULD DO
What are you doing here in your underwear?
After the assembly
GEEZ, IF YOU'RE GOING TO COLLAPSE, DO IT AFTER EVERYTHING'S DONE
HEY, WHAT IS THIS?
I'VE BEEN WRITING UP A RECORD OF WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON UP UNTIL NOW
cos I'm so bored
You dare say that while I'm here?
I'LL BE BACK TOMORROW
SORRY FOR GETTING SICK AT A TIME LIKE THIS
Didn't expect that to happen
Aaah, I thought I'd return the favour and look after you since your stay here got extended— how boring
No thanks
See Ya!!

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THE SET FOR THE HISTORY PRESENTATION? THE ONE OF THE CASTLE
IT'S BECOME QUITE THE MASTERPIECE!
THEY WERE HAPPY TO GET THAT EXTRA MATERIAL
BUT THE CONTENT OF THEIR TALK IS STILL KIND OF WEAK
Thanks.
Does it need to be checked?
We're still updating the records for the fatal experiments.
THE PHYSICS GROUP ARE HAVING A HARD TIME FINDING ENOUGH EQUIPMENT FOR THEIR EXPERIMENTS TOO...
THEIR GROUP LEADER'S BEING RUN RAGGED AND THERE'S KIKUCHI TO DEAL WITH TOO...
WELL, WE'LL MANAGE SOMEHOW... THAT LOT ARE GREAT AT GETTING THINGS DONE LAST MINUTE
We've that kind of class.
I SEE
YOU SHOULD GET BACK TO THEM
YEAH, I'LL BE GOING THEN THE DAY'S GOTTEN AWAY FROM ME...
SEE YOU AGAIN AT SCHOOL
.....

You look totally lame right now
TAKE IT EASY HERE IN HOSPITAL, OKAY?
YEAH
THAT SMILE...
THANKS FOR LOOKING AFTER ME
SEE YA.
TAKAYAMA...?
SAY HELLO TO EVERYONE!
IT'S THE SAME
THE SAME AS THOSE TIMES...
HUH...? WHAT'S WRONG?
!?
LET GO.
NOT AGAIN

A...
AZUMA?
YOU...
ARE YOU THINKING SOMETHING STUPID AGAIN?
EH?
LIKE THAT IT'S YOUR FAULT THAT I STARTED COUGHING UP BLOOD.
TAKA-YAMA!
BUT IT IS, ISN'T IT?

BECAUSE YOU EVEN FELT LIKE YOU HAD TO SEND ME THAT MESSAGE...
WHAT MESSAGE?
YOU TOLD TASUKU-SENPAI TO TELL ME "IT WASN'T MY FAULT"!
WAIT A MINUTE, I NEVER TOLD HIM THAT-
WHAT DOES IT MATTER THEN!?
HOWEVER YOU LOOK AT IT, IT'S ALL MY FAULT!

THAT'S NOT TRUE
IT IS!!
SORRY I'M GONNA GO NOW...
STU-!
YOU REALLY THINK THAT-

Look here!
WHAT'S ALL THE RUCKUS!?
SORRY...
See you later!
WELL, I'LL BE GOING THEN
JOU!
AZUMA-SAN
WE NEED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT THE RESULTS OF YOUR EXAMINATION A BIT LATER, BUT PERHAPS YOU'D LIKE TO CALL SOMEONE... A GUARDIAN...?

I'LL HEAR THE RESULTS FOR MYSELF!
AH! NO RUNNING INSIDE THE HOSPITAL!!
Honestly!
OH, JUST THEN...
I wonder if his leg's all better...
WASN'T THAT TAKAYAMA-KUN?
ELEVATOR HALL
RECREATION ROOM
STAIRWELL A
I BET HE'LL BE HEADED DOWNSTAIRS AFTER ME BY ONE OF THE ELEVATORS.
clang
SO I'LL WAIT HERE FOR A LITTLE WHILE...
I SHOULD KNOW THIS HOSPITAL BETTER THAN HE DOES, ANYWAY
squeak

5
BUT HE...
WHAT ON EARTH AM I DOING
creeeak
Eeek
Tch, making me come this far
LIKE I THOUGHT HERE YOU ARE
screech! clang!
!!
flinch!
Uwa!
No way!
flip.
Weeah
WAIT!
Damn you!
STOP RUNNING AWAY!!
STOP CHASING ME THEN!!
You're freaking me out!!
It's like being chased by Jason
JOU! YOU!!
...what the hell
slam!
Huff
huff
Don't make me get up out of my sick bed to come running after you
...WHAT ARE YOU SO SCARED OF?
GIVE ME A BREAK, HERE.

WHA... WHAT DO YOU...
WHERE'S ALL YOUR NORMAL CHEEK GONE?
IF YOU START WORRYING OVER SOMETHING LIKE THIS I'M THE ONE WHO'S GOING TO BE TROUBLED
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU...
WHY AM I STILL SO...
I CAN'T STAND IT!!
JOU...
YOU IDIOT!
YOU...
WHO'S GONNA DIE FROM A STUPID LITTLE ULCER?
mumble-
stupid
BUT YOU WERE COUGHING UP BLOOD
I DON'T WANT ANYONE TO DIE BECAUSE OF ME EVER AGAIN...
WHAT?
YOU NEVER TALK TO ME ABOUT ANYTHING REAL,
SO I NEVER UNDERSTAND ANYTHING YOU DO.
BUT,
...HEY.
I KNOW THAT! ...BUT IT'S NO GOOD...
AND YOU'RE SO DAMN CONTRARY, YOU ALWAYS MANAGE TO FIGURE OUT WHAT I'M THINKING AT THE WORST TIMES!
WHY IS IT ALWAYS JUST ME CONSUMED WITH THINKING ABOUT YOU...?

JUST WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING...?
EH?
I REALLY AM——
TO AZUMA, I'M STILL...
grab!
WHAT A FAILURE YOUR CALCULATIONS WERE QUITE A BIT OFF THIS TIME
YOU DON'T MISS THINGS LIKE THAT NORMALLY
MAN...
N... NO!
DON'T MAKE FUN OF ME!!
You keep on doing this!
DON'T THINK YOU CAN FOB ME OFF LIKE THAT FOREVER!
Hud!
IF YOU KICK UP A FUSS HERE, YOU'LL FALL DOWN AGAIN
snuff...
wah!
CRAP...!
Ugh
SHUT UP!!
AND DON'T TOUCH ME!!
stamp!

BUT YOU SURE MESSED UP THERE
I FEEL SORRY FOR HIM CORNERING HIM LIKE THAT WHEN HE WAS ALREADY DOWN
YOU'RE A MEAN MAN AS ALWAYS
I THOUGHT YOU WEREN'T GOING TO COME OUT ANYMORE
WHOSE FAULT DO YOU THINK IT IS?
SO HURRY UP AND SET ME FREE, STUPID
ARE YOU TAKING YOUR REVENGE BY NOT SAYING ANYTHING?
HE'S REALLY QUITE TOUGH, YOU KNOW
TO STAY WITH YOU, EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE LIKE THIS...
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH! THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL
THERE WAS NOTHING EITHER OF YOU COULD HAVE DONE
I KNOW

I HAVE TO AGREE WITH YOU. IT WAS TERRIBLE
BUT, IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
THAT'S JUST THE WAY I AM
"BUT, IT CAN'T BE HELPED."
IN LIFE WE CAN ONLY GROW FROM PAINFUL EXPERIENCES
OR MAYBE THAT'S JUST THE GAME AS FORGETTING THEM.
TIMES LIKE THAT YOU SHOULD JUST THINK OF SOMETHING FUN
TO ME FUN AND PAINFUL TIMES ARE EXACTLY THE GAME
MAYBE... I'VE REACHED ENLIGHTENMENT ALREADY, HM?

Gramps
NO WAY. I CAN'T AGREE WITH THAT.
WELL, DON'T WORRY TOO MUCH ABOUT IT. JUST GIVE IT A TRY.
WHY SHOULD I DO SOMETHING SO POINTLESS.
I'D ALREADY FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT THIS——
BUT YOU KNOW.
SOMETIMES EVEN THOUGH IT'S SOMETHING EVERYONE ALREADY KNOWS
YOU HAVE TO PUT IT INTO WORDS, AND SAY IT OUT LOUD
TAKASHI, IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE TOO SMART
YOU KNOW WHAT THE ANSWER WILL BE EVEN BEFORE A QUESTION'S BEEN ASKED
Hehe
CAN'T ARGUE AGAINST THAT THEN

EVEN IF YOU THINK THERE'S NO POINT TO IT NOW, PERHAPS IT WILL OPEN UP A PATH YOU DIDN'T SEE BEFORE
HOW'S THE PATIENT IN ROOM 506?
THEY COULDN'T FIND ANYTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY
He'll probably need some sedatives now...
HIS FACE WAS SO PALE EVEN THE HEAD NURSE DIDN'T GET ANGRY
BUT I TOLD HIM TO GO GET SOME REST INSTEAD...
WHAT WAS HE DOING, CHASING AFTER SOMEONE IN A PLACE LIKE THAT?
BUT I'M KIND OF MORE WORRIED ABOUT THAT OTHER BOY
He don't look the type to act like that.

TAKA-
SHI...
"DON'T GO
AWAY TO
AMERICA!"